

Aunt Mariah Remembers River

By Fred Watson

It isn't very often that you find a person who has lived to see as many changes in the Negro areas, as has Mariah Griffin, who was 106 years old, Monday January 10th, 1972. Aunt Mariah was born January 10, 1866, in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. This was one year after the end of the Civil War, just a few months after the people of her race were granted their freedom.

Aunt Mariah is the famous woman of the Chattahoochee River, than any other living person, because for many years she worked as stewardess aboard three river boats which plied the river from Appalachia, Fla., to Columbus, Ga.

The hey - day of the steamers has gone from the memory of all but a few persons who met the river boats regularly as they pulled into the docks at Gordon, Columbia or Eu-



taula.

Mariah's mind is not as clear as it was a few years ago, but she can still remember her conservations of those river boat days, gave you a clear picture of the excitement and adventure tied to the life of those who worked on the early river boats.

She recalled many of the routines while she enjoyed a stoveless life, "It was a easy life," she said, "All I had to do was take care of the women and children on the boats, and when there were no white women or children on board all I had to do was sleep."

Mariah was stewardess on the City of Tuscaloosa, one of the last old-time steamers to operate on the river. It was a 216-ton capacity craft built in 1912 at Columbia, Ga.

In the 1920's The City of Eufaula caught fire and burned in flames, and Mariah is perhaps the only person alive who knows exactly what happened.

She fondly remembers of tending his work, not the fire, but off courting with some of the girls from around Malone, who came down to meet the boat. Mariah stated, "She remembers that she was on the top deck at the time the fire started over the boiler room, but she managed to get ashore as soon as the fire started.

The boat drifted downstream after the ropes burned.

The captain of the boat was aboard, but a man with a small boat followed and took the captain off.

After The City of Eufaula burned Mariah transferred to the John C. Callahan, Sr., another river steamer built in 1907, and said to be the last boat to operate regularly between Columbus and Appalachia. She was aboard when the ill fated vessel struck a express stump in the Coker Creek, near Co-waliteka, Fla., and sank.

When the company put the Callahan Jr., into service on the river, Mariah again took up her duties on the third vessel and worked as waitress on this boat until "the boats quit running."

Mariah then moved to Columbus, and worked as a cook and maid for the Oakley family, for many years.

In 1946 Aunt Mariah fell and broke both hips but with a strong determination, was able to walk again, but in 1960 she fell again and broke one of her legs.

The last of her children, a daughter, and the last of her immediate family, died in 1969.

She was admitted to a nursing home in Andalusia where she stayed for two or three years. Then she came to Dothan to live with a great niece for a few years.



4-11ers ponder this question as they receive their seedlings. Receding seedlings are left to right: (kneeling) Lila Lower, Janet Shire, Marvin Johnson, David Brown, (standing) Gertrude Coleman and Lila Indor. The International Paper Company provided 24,000 pine seedlings to 4-11ers in Coffee County.

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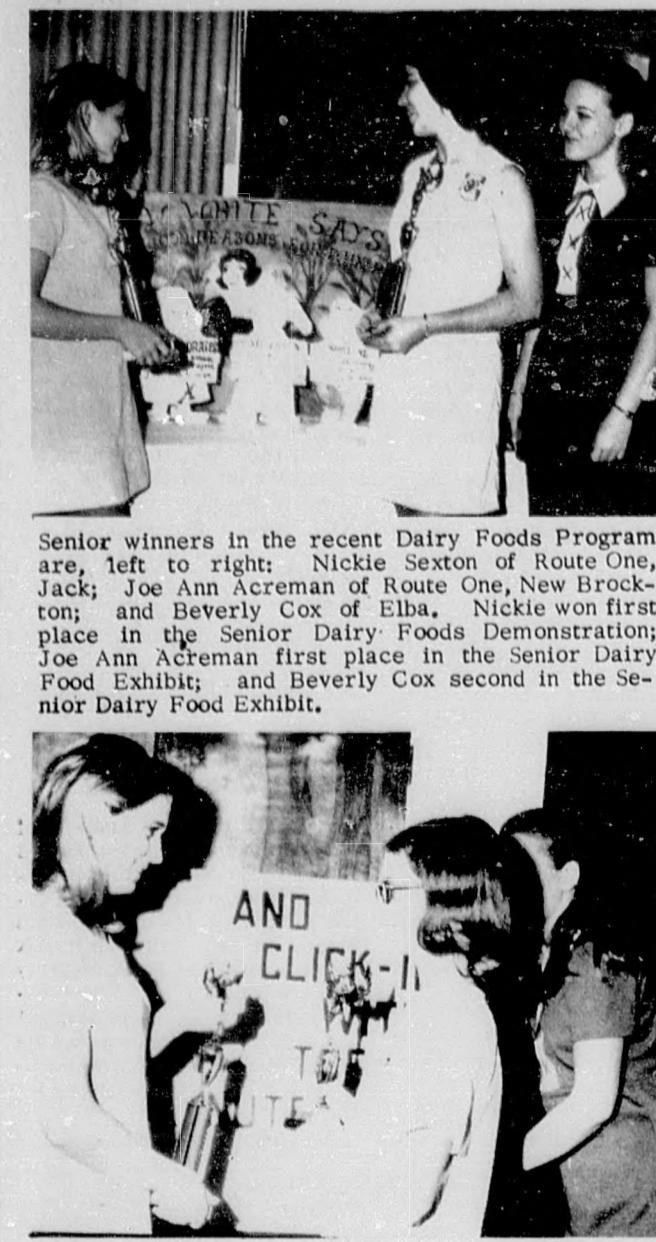
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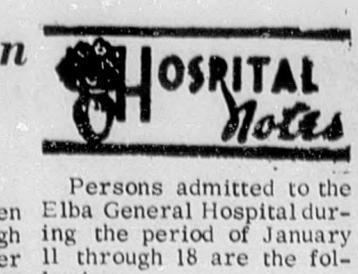
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**Donna Nelson
Zion Chapel
Homemaker**



HOSPITAL Notes

Senior winners in the recent Dairy Foods Demonstration, left to right, are: Joyce Sexton of Route One, Mrs. Jim Ann Acreman of Route One, New Brockton; and Beverly Cox of Elba. Nickie won first place in the Senior Dairy Foods Demonstration; Jim Ann Acreman first place in the Senior Dairy Food Exhibit; and Beverly Cox second in the Senior Dairy Food Exhibit.



Showing off their first place trophies in the Dairy Food Demonstration are Nickie Sexton, left, and Monica Towles. Looking on is Beverly Cox, of Elba. Nickie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Sexton of Elba, and Monica is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Towles of Route 5, Elba. Nickie and Monica will participate in the district Dairy Food Awards Program in Auburn.



Crime is fast becoming the number one concern of most communities across the country. The FBI reports a growing fear of crime by Americans everywhere. Quinn Tamm, executive director of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, says, "Crime is of vital national concern, and requires the resources of all citizens to combat it." The Acworth, Georgia, authorities, the causes of crime are bound by the conditions of our society. Any attack on crime must require a national effort to lessen poverty, slum housing, ill health and illiteracy. The FBI reports that about eight times more rapidly than population growth and, unfortunately, reported crimes account for only a third of the number actually committed. Furthermore, arrests

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We need strong police-public cooperation. Citizens have a right to expect their police to report all offenses, and take all common-sense precautions against crime. They should not shirk duty as a juror, or let personal bias foster hatred of others.

Leon Bailey of Route 2, Elba, believes in treating people fairly. He said that he had not been able to make peace on for a number of years until this year when they treated for nematics and for personal bias. That is why

An Open Letter To The People Of Elba

ELBA HIGH SCHOOL
ELBA, ALABAMA
JANUARY 20, 1972

Dear Friend:

We, the members of The Marching Tiger Band and the Elba Band Boosters' Club, want to express to you, the citizens of Elba, our gratitude for the support you have given us during the past few months. You have responded generously to all our requests and thus have enabled us to see our dreams mature. We are humbled by the knowledge of all that you have done for us and grateful for your continued enthusiasm. It makes all the difference to know that you are proud of, and for, us.

THE BAND COUNCIL
Jane Kidd, President
Jim Williams, Vice President
Alice Brunson, Secretary & Treasurer
Courtney Cannon, Drum Major
Debra Bludworth, Color Guard Captain
Gwendolyn Galimore, Head Majorette
Sandra Clark, 9th Grade Representative
Bill Brunson, 8th Grade Representative

THE SECTION LEADERS:

Jim Williams, Trombones
Ronnie Mallory, Basses
Ronnie Mickie, Percussion
Ronnie Jackson, Drums
Melanie Carnley, Saxophones
Jane Kidd, Clarinets
Mary Collier, Melaphoniums
Kathy Bowers and Joyce Ziglar, Flutes

THE BAND BOOSTERS CLUB:

THE BAND DIRECTOR:
Bill Hickman

MOONLIGHT

... MADNESS ...

Fantastic - Unbelievable

6 Til 11 p.m. Thursday - JANUARY 20

In Season Clothes



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THE ELBA CLIPPER JANUARY 20, 1972
DON'T DELAY PROOF
OF AGE - SAYS SS REP

Many people in Coffee County wait too long to start getting evidence of their age, according to Donald G. Valeska, social security representative for the state.

Persons admitted to the Elba General Hospital during the period of January 11 through 18 are the following:

Joseph Flowers, Sara Mullins, Daniel Pope, Rhonda Pope, Julia S. Wilson, Sara Manring, Lola Parker, Roxane Sanders, Jamesine Williams, Grimes, Milan Wayne Marler, Ben Coppage, Nettie Ruth Spann, Margaret Imman, Harold Grimes, Jack Grimes, Hazel Gibson, Lena Walden, Linda Campbell, Winnie Mullins, Lola Parker, Mrs. Parker, Brenda, Bernice Brundidge, Second place goes to Lisa Sells, third, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Sells of Elba; and third place goes to Randy Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Wilson of Route One, and Beverly Cox second in the District Awards Program at Auburn.

PEANUT AND FIELD CROPS DAY

The annual Peanut and Field County Day will be held Thursday, February 3, at the Peanut and Field County Fairground.

The Peanut and Field County Day will receive a complete list of Encyclopedia Britannica from Encyclopedias Inc. A Scholarship of \$500 will be awarded.

Students who have completed the annual educational program, including the District Awards Program at Auburn.

Those discharged during the same period were:

Kimberly Flowers, Sara Mullins, Danny Williams, Rhonda Pope, Sara Manring, Lola Parker, Roxane Sanders, Grimes, Milan Wayne Marler, Nettie Ruth Spann, Margaret Imman, Harold Grimes, Peggy Wingate, Jamesine Williams, Doyle Mock, Linda Campbell, Frances Henderson, Emma Nell Burney, Polly Williams, Mattie Goodson, Dorothy Williams, and Linda Campbell.

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